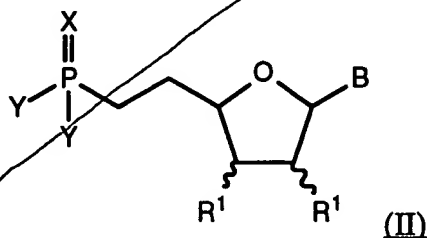


In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

7. (twice amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

[each] R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is [independently hydrogen, hydroxyl,] fluorine or methyl ether;

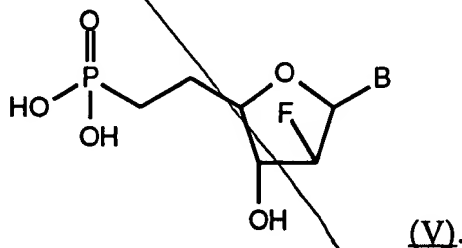
R<sup>1</sup> at the 3'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;

each Y is independently OR<sup>2</sup>, N(R<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, or SR<sup>2</sup> wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

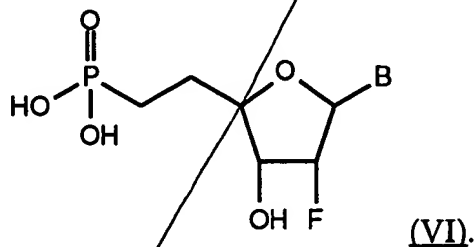
X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur[;

with the proviso that when X is oxygen and each Y is OH, R<sup>1</sup> at the 3'-position is hydroxyl and R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl, then B is not guanine, thymine, cytosine, uracil or adenine and when R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is hydrogen, then B is not 5-fluorouracil].

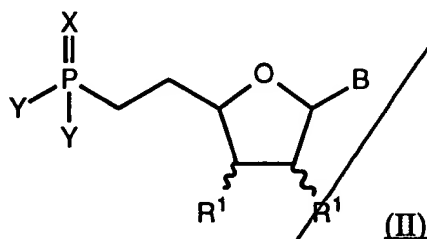
10. (twice amended) The compound of claim 7 having the formula (V):



14. (twice amended) The compound of claim 7 having the formula (VI):



20. (twice amended) A pharmaceutical composition useful for treatment of a viral infection [or malignant condition] which comprises an effective amount of a compound of formula (II)



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

[each] R<sup>1</sup> at the 2'-position is [independently hydrogen, hydroxyl,] fluorine or methyl ether;

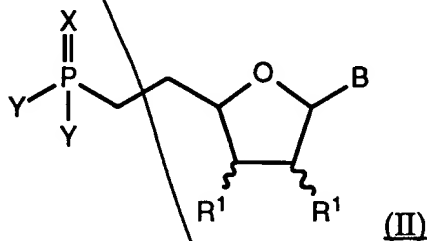
R<sup>1</sup> at the 3'-position is hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

each Y is independently OR<sup>2</sup>, N(R<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>[,] or SR<sup>2</sup> wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is oxygen or sulfur

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

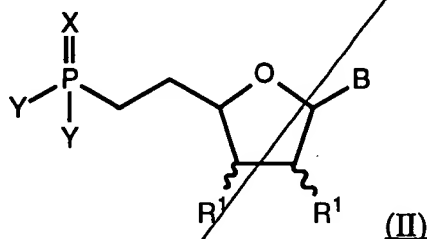
each  $R^1$  is independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

each Y is independently  $[OR^2]$ ,  $N(R^2)_2$ , or  $SR^2$  wherein each  $R^2$  is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is oxygen or sulfur.

Cancel claim 39.

40. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

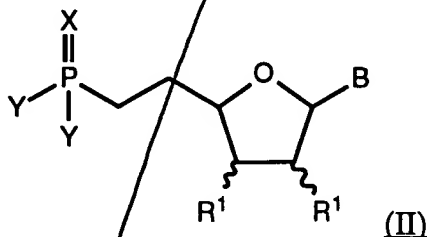
[each]  $R^1$  at the 3'-position is [hydroxyl,] fluorine or methyl ether; [and]

$R^1$  at the 2'-position is hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

each Y is independently  $OR^2$ ,  $N(R^2)_2$ , or  $SR^2$  wherein each  $R^2$  is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur.

41. (amended) A compound of formula (II):

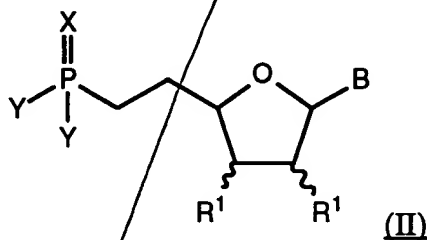


and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is 5-iodouracil, thymine, guanine, 8-hydroxy- $N^6$ -methyladenine, aziridinylcytosine, 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine;

[each]  $R^1$  at the 3'-position is hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether; [and]  $R^1$  at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;  
each Y is independently  $OR^2$ ,  $N(R^2)_2$ , or  $SR^2$  wherein each  $R^2$  is [independently] hydrogen; and  
X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur.

42. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is  $N^2$ -isobutyrylguanine,  $N^4$ -benzoylcytosine, [ $N^6$ -benzoyladenine] or  $N^3$ -benzylthymine;

[each]  $R^1$  at the 3'-position is hydroxyl and  $R^1$  at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;

each Y is independently  $OR^2$ ,  $N(R^2)_2$ , or  $SR^2$  wherein each  $R^2$  is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is [selected from] oxygen or sulfur.

Please add the following new claims.

--43. The compound of claim 38 wherein X is oxygen and  $R^2$  is hydrogen.

B<sup>7</sup>

44. The compound of claim 43 wherein B is guanine, adenine, cytosine, uracil, 5-fluorouracil, 5-iodouracil, thymine, 8-hydroxy- $N^6$ -methyladenine, aziridinylcytosine, 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine.

45. The compound of claim 40 wherein X is oxygen.